



History conjures up feelings of nostalgia. Stories begin, “Once upon a time” and everyone gets starry eyed waiting to hear the experiences of the past, marvel at how people lived and then wistfully declare “oh, the good old days”.

Believe me, whether you think it or not today, April 4, 2009 and this era- with all its difficulties, and economic hardships- will soon be thought of as “one of the good old days”.

This is the story of the Spanish Town Seventh-day Adventist church.

Once upon a time – way back in 1893 an American Seventh-day Adventist Pastor, Pastor Albert Haysmer and his family came to Jamaica and conducted a tent crusade at a section of the Race Course Grounds in Kingston. That location is now National Heroes Park. Thirty seven persons were baptized and the first church was organised.

People hungered for the word of God and the early pioneers burned with the desire to share their faith. They just would not keep still. Several evangelistic efforts were conducted in Kingston and outside of Kingston.

In December 1908 a tent crusade was conducted on the grounds of Mulberry Gardens, Spanish Town. That spot now houses the Spanish Town Infirmary. The individuals baptized in that crusade started the Spanish Town SDA Church. Foundation members include Joseph Colbrook, Albert Taylor, Marcia Reid, Albert Morgan, Elizabeth McEwan, her daughters, Adina and Ameria, and Ameria's daughters, Lily and Daisy.

Other early foundation members include: George Cameron, Lily's husband, Hubert Scott, Wilbert and Mary Stewart, Linda Gidden, Charles Phillpotts, Charles Black and Herman Miller. Elizabeth McEwan's great-grand daughter (Joy Scott-Radcliffe) still worships at this Church, and another great-grand daughter, Cecily Reece, was instrumental in the formation of the Central Village Seventh-day Adventist Church.

Well, the members of the newly-formed Spanish Town SDA Church worshipped in a building, located at the corner of King and Old Market Streets. Today, that building houses the Church of God and Saints of Christ Temple.

In 1924 after another tent crusade, the membership outgrew the building and land was found at 8 King Street for the construction of a new church building. Between 1939 and 1948 there were several tent crusades and more people were baptized. This of course, resulted in the need for additional space. In spite of extensions to the structure, it

become evident a new church building was needed. So in 1949, a lot of land at 7 Brunswick Avenue was purchased from one of the members, Charles Phillpotts for One Hundred and Fifty Pounds (£150). Soon after, in 1950 a tent crusade was conducted at the site and ground was broken for a new church building. In two years time, September 1956, the church building was dedicated. Poor Pastor E.C. Walton who shepherded the flock then - he was severely criticized by individuals who articulated that such a large church building should never have been constructed.

The flame continued to burn through the decades of the 60s, the 70s, the 80s, into the 90s. The preaching of the gospel did not lose its momentum and crusades, house to house evangelism efforts, small bible study groups and various other strategies were employed to reach others. The Spanish Town SDA Church became a pioneer in 'church planting' even before the term became fashionable and one by one churches sprang up in the Spanish Town environs -

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| Crescent | - | 1930's |
| St. John's | - | 1945 |
| McCook's Pen | - | 1949 |
| Gregory Park | - | 1950's |
| Hartlands | - | 1960's |
| Clear Park | - | 1960's |
| Central Village | - | 1960's |

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|-----------------|---|------|
| Sydenham | - | 1968 |
| Irish Pen | - | 1972 |
| Tredegar Park | - | 1973 |
| Corlett's Road | - | 1978 |
| Jones Avenue | - | 1978 |
| De-la-vega City | - | 1981 |
| Family of God | - | 1993 |

All daughters of Spanish Town.

We give God thanks for the passion for souls that burned within the hearts of our pioneers and for their hard work. In more recent times, we remember the dedicated service of people like Archibald Morris, Arthur Smith, Windel Kennedy, Leonard Cheese, those previously named, and others.

The structure at 7 Brunswick Avenue (where the congregation still meets) has seen numerous additions and extensions, and the church continues to grow. Accordingly, yet another addition is to be undertaken and will begin in a matter of weeks. As our membership continues to swell, will we eventually need to relocate? Perhaps, that's a question for the next generation.

The love, sacrifice and dedication of past members are legendary and the tradition continues with present leaders and members. We truly have a rich heritage and it is our responsibility to keep the flames burning.

As we recognize the Centennial of the Spanish Town SDA Church, let us thank God for having allowed us to come this far and resolve to keep the vision alive while we build on the foundation of those who worked so hard and sacrificed so much that we can be here today.

We invite you, dear visitors, to worship with us whenever you feel like it. God bless you.